

A Guide to Arabic Preposition for
Non-Native Speakers

الاستعمالات
أحرف الجر

فِي اللّغَةِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ

Usages of Arabic Prepositions

By

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Usages preposition in Arabic sentences correctly has been always an issue for non-native Arabic speakers. Even advanced learners of Arabic find prepositions difficult, as a 1:1 translation is usually not possible. One preposition in your native language might have several translations depending on the situation. This guide is a participation to help learning when and which one to use in Arabic language.

For each preposition, you'll find a table of most usages and plenty of examples. Some verbs in Arabic always come with specific preposition (s). That's why, reading a lot and looking them up in a dictionary can be very helpful.

I looked in different references and dictionaries to came up with simple way to deliver these information. I also used online Oxford dictionary to make comparison between Arabic and English prepositions. There are translation for all Arabic examples to help learners clear any confusing that might be in this area.

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استِعمالات حَرْفِ الجَرِّ	مِثَال	التَّرْجَمَة
Preposition usages	Example	Translating
[1] To mark the beginning of place	يَمْشِي زَيْدٌ مِنْ الْبَيْتِ إِلَى الْمَدْرَسَةِ	Zayd walks from home to the school
[2] To mark the beginning of period of time	يَمْشِي زَيْدٌ مِنْ السَّاعَةِ ٣ إِلَى السَّاعَةِ ٥	Zayd walks from 3 o'clock to the 5 o'clock
[3] To get few out of whole	شَرِبَ زَيْدٌ مِنْ الْعَصِيرِ (In this example Zayd didn't drink the whole juice)	Zayd drank from the juice
	يَأْكُلُ زَيْدٌ الْقَلِيلَ مِنْ الطَّعَامِ	Zayd eats a little of food
	لَا يَمْلِكُ زَيْدًا شَيْئًا مِنْ الْمَالِ	Zayd doesn't have any money
[4] To compare - must come after comparative verb: (أطول - أقصر - أرخص - أجمل)	زَيْدٌ أَطْوَلُ مِنْ نُورٍ	Zayd is taller than Noor
[5] Indicating the source or provenance of someone or something	أَنَا مِنْ فَلَسْطِينِ	I'm from Palatine
	أَنَا قَرِيبٌ مِنْ الْبَيْتِ	I'm close to home
	شَاهِدْ شُرُوقَ الشَّمْسِ مِنْ هُنَا	Watch sunrise from here
	هَذَا الْكِتَابُ مِنْ زَيْدٍ	This book is from Zayd
[6] To show what something is made of or consist of	لَا تَغْضَبْ مِنْهَا	Don't be angry with her
	بَيْتٌ مِنْ الْخَشَبِ	A house out of wood
	هَذِهِ رَوَايَةٌ مِنْ ثَلَاثِ فُصُولٍ	This is a novel in three parts



استِعمالات حَرْف الجرّ	مِثَال	التَرْجَمَة
Preposition usages	Example	Translating
[1] To mark the ending of place	يَمْشِي زَيْدٌ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ إِلَى الْمَدْرَسَةِ	Zayd walks from home to the school
[2] To mark the ending of period of time	يَمْشِي زَيْدٌ مِنَ السَّاعَةِ ٣ إِلَى السَّاعَةِ ٥	Zayd walks from 3 o'clock to the 5 o'clock
[3] Indicating the source or provenance when comparing - must come after comparative verb: (أطول - أقصر - أرخص - أجمل)	الْقِرَاءَةُ أَحَبُّ الْهَوَايَاتِ إِلَى نَفْسِي الْمَدْرَسَةُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَى بَيْتِي	Reading is the most favorite hobbies to myself School is closer to my home
[4] Before the question "أَيْنَ"	إِلَى أَيِّنَ سَيَذْهَبُ زَيْدٌ؟ (You can also say: (أَيْنَ سَيَذْهَبُ زَيْدٌ	(To) where will Zayd go?
[5] In the phrase "إِلَى اللِّقَاءِ"	سَأَذْهَبُ الْآنَ، إِلَى اللِّقَاءِ	I'll take off now, see you later
[6] In the sense of until - It comes before أَنْ + فِعْل	غَنَّتِ الْأُمُّ لِطِفْلِهَا إِلَى أَنْ نَامَ You can use حَتَّى instead of إِلَى أَنْ	The mother sang the baby to sleep



استِعمالات حَرْف الجر Preposition usages	مِثَال Example	التَرْجَمَة Translating
[1] In a position touching a surface	اللَّوْحَةُ عَلَى الْحَائِطِ	The picture is on the wall
[2] To move something/somebody to the top of something	يَضَعُ زَيْدُ الْكِتَابَ عَلَى الطَّائِلَةِ	Zayd puts the book on the table
[3] To move something/somebody OFF the top of something	سَقَطَ الْكِتَابُ مِنْ عَلَى الطَّائِلَةِ (عَلَى must comes before مِنْ)	The book fell off the table
[4] To show the reason for award or punish	كَافَأَ زَيْدُ الْوَلَدَ عَلَى عَمَلِهِ	Zayd awarded the child for his work
	عَاقَبَ زَيْدُ الْوَلَدَ عَلَى عَمَلِهِ	Zayd punished the child for his work
[5] In the meaning of has to/have to	عَلَى التَّلْمِيذِ الْمَذَاكِرَةِ	The student has to study
	عَلَى زَيْدٍ إِعْدَادِ الْعِشَاءِ	Zayd has to fix dinner
	لَا عَلَيْكَ	It's ok, don't mention it
[6] In the meaning of had to	كَانَ عَلَى التَّلْمِيذِ الْمَذَاكِرَةِ	The student had to study
[7] In the sense of even	أُحِبُّكَ عَلَى أَخْطَائِكَ	I like you even you do mistakes
[8] In the phrase "عَلَى الْمَوْعِدِ"	جَاءَ زَيْدٌ عَلَى الْمَوْعِدِ	Zayd came on time
[9] To read a ratio	$\frac{5}{7} = \text{خَمْسَةٌ عَلَى سَبْعَةٍ}$	$\frac{5}{7}$ = five by seven
[10] To show somebody's attitude or reaction to something	هَذِهِ الْمَوْسِيقَى لَيْسَتْ عَلَى ذَوْقِي	This music isn't to my taste



الترجمة	مِثَال	استعمالات حَرْف الجر
Translating	Example	Preposition usages
a country in Africa	دَوْلَةٌ فِي أَفْرِيقِيَا	[1] At a point within an area or a space
The kids were playing in the street	الأَطْفَالُ كَانُوا يَلْعَبُونَ فِي الشَّارِعِ	
It's in that drawer	هُوَ فِي هَذَا الدُّرْجِ	
Zayd at home	زَيْدٌ فِي الْبَيْتِ	
Zayd put the ball into the box	وَضَعَ زَيْدُ الْكُرَةَ فِي الصَّنْدُوقِ	[2] In movement into a closed space
[3] during a period of time		
in April	فِي إِبْرَيْلِ	- months / seasons
in morning	فِي الصَّبَاحِ	- time of day
at night	فِي اللَّيْلِ	
in 1998	فِي عَامِ ١٩٩٨	- year
at the weekend	فِي عَطْلَةِ الْأُسْبُوعِ	- weekend
at half past six	فِي السَّاعَةِ السَّادِسَةِ وَالنِّصْفِ	- telling the time
The house is in good repair	الْمَنْزِلُ فِي أَحْسَنِ حَالٍ	[4] To show a state or condition
She's in computers.	هِيَ تَعْمَلُ فِي مَجَالِ الْكُمْبِيُوتَرِ	[5] To show somebody's job or profession
Zayd said bad things about you	تَحَدَّثَ زَيْدٌ فِيكَ	[6] In the sense of unpleasant and unkind talk about somebody who is not present
$2 \times 3 = 6$: 2 multiplies by 3 equal 6	$2 \times 3 = 6$: اِثْنَانِ فِي ثَلَاثَةٍ تُسَاوِي سِتَّةَ	[7] In reading multiply equation



استِعمَالَات حَرْفِ الْجَرِّ Preposition usages	مِثَال Example	التَّرْجَمَة Translating
[1] Talking about something or someone	تَحَدَّثَ الْمَدِيرُ عَنِ الْمَشْرُوعِ	The manager talked about the project
	إِبْتَعَدَ زَيْدٌ عَنِ الْبَيْتِ	Zayd walked away from home
	رَفَعَ زَيْدُ الْكِتَابَ عَنِ الطَّاوِلَةِ	Zayd took the book of the table
[2] To show something/someone is moving a distance from somebody/something	تَخَلَّى زَيْدٌ عَنِ الْجَائِزَةِ	Zayd let down the prize
	إِبْتَعِدْ عَنِّي	Stay away from me
	سَتَتَأَخَّرُ عَنِ الْعَمَلِ	You'll be late from work
[3] In the sense of doing something on behalf of someone	قَبِلْتُ الْجَائِزَةَ عَنِ زَيْدٍ	I accepted the reward on behalf of Zayd
	أَجَبْتُ عَنْ زَيْدٍ	I answered on behalf of Zayd
[4] To distinguish between two people or things	أَنَا أَفْضَلُ السَّبَّاحَةِ عَنِ الْجَرِيِّ	I prefer swimming to walking
	هَلِ اللُّغَةُ الْبُرتَغَالِيَّةُ مُخْتَلِفَةٌ عَنِ الْإِسْبَانِيَّةِ؟	Is Portuguese very different from Spanish?

حَتَّى

الترجمة	مثال	استعمالات حرف الجر
Translating	Example	Preposition usages
Zayd run to the tree	رَكَضَ زَيْدٌ حَتَّى الشَّجَرَةِ	[1] Up to the point in time or the event mentioned
Zayd slept until the afternoon	نَامَ زَيْدٌ حَتَّى الظُّهْرِ	

كَ

الترجمة	مثال	استعمالات حرف الجر
Translating	Example	Preposition usages
Your skin is soft as a silk	بَشَرَّتُكَ نَاعِمَةٌ كَالْحَرِيرِ	[1] To describe somebody/something appearing to be somebody/something else
He treats me as a friend	هُوَ يُعَامِلُنِي كَصَدِيقٍ	
You can use that glass as a vase	يُمْكِنُكَ اسْتِعْمَالَ هَذَا الْكَاسِ كَمَزْهَرِيَّةٍ	[2] To describe the fact that somebody/something has a particular job or function
The news came as a shock	الْأَخْبَارُ جَاءَتْ كَالصَّاعِقَةِ	

مُذْ / مِنْذُ

الترجمة	مثال	استعمالات حرف الجر
Translating	Example	Preposition usages
I didn't sleep for two days	لَمْ أُنَمْ مُنْذُ يَوْمَيْنِ	[1] from a time in the past until a later past time, or until now
I haven't seen him in years	لَمْ أَرَهُ مُنْذُ سِنِينَ	



استِعمالات حَرْف الجرّ	مِثَال	التَّرْجَمَة
Preposition usages	Example	Translating
[1] To show something/somebody that are used/touched/carried..etc to do specific work	يَكْتُبُ زَيْدٌ بِالْقَلَمِ	Zayd wrote with the pen
	أَمْسَكَتُ يَدَهُ	I took him by the hand
	يَرَسُمُ زَيْدٌ بِالْفُرْشَاةِ	Zayd paints with brush
	يَنَامُ زَيْدٌ بِمَلَابِسِ الْعَمَلِ	Zayd sleeps with work clothes
	أُصِيبَ زَيْدٌ بِحَجَرٍ فِي رَأْسِهِ	Zayd was hit by a stone in his head
	يُفَكِّرُ زَيْدٌ بِالسَّفَرِ	Zayd is thinking about making a travel
[2] past somebody/something	قَامَ زَيْدٌ بِرَحْلَةٍ	Zayd went in a trip
	مَرَّ زَيْدٌ بِي	Zayd passed by me
[3] To show the way in which somebody does something	بَيْتِي بِجَانِبِ الصِّيدَلِيَّةِ	My home is beside the pharmacy
	بِكُلِّ سُرُورٍ	with all my pleasure
	إِنْتَهَى زَيْدٌ مِنْ عَمَلِهِ بِسُرْعَةٍ	Zayd finished his job quickly
	إِنْتَهَى زَيْدٌ بِدُونِ مُسَاعَدَةِ أَحَدٍ	Zayd finished without anyone helping
	يَسْبَحُ زَيْدٌ بِشَكْلٍ جَيِّدٍ	Zayd's swimming is good
	يَتَحَدَّثُ زَيْدٌ بِطَلَاقَةٍ	Zayd speaks fluently
	يَأْكُلُ زَيْدٌ بِصَمْتٍ	Zayd eats quietly
	فَعَلْتُ هَذَا بِالْخَطَأِ	I did it by mistake
	قَابَلْتُهُ بِالْصُدْفَةِ	I met him by chance

[4] Used when swearing
to mean 'in the name of'

بِاللَّهِ عَلَيْكَ؟

Do you swear?

شَعَرَ زَيْدٌ بِالْأَلَمِ

Zayd felt pain

[5] To show feeling

أَنَا أَشْعُرُ بِالسَّعَادَةِ

I feel happy

أَنَا فَخُورٌ بِكَ

I'm proud of you

يَهْتَمُّ زَيْدٌ بِزَوْجَتِهِ

Zayd cares about his
wife

[6] To show caring

يَعْتَنِي زَيْدٌ بِحِصَانِهِ

Zayd takes care of his
horse

بَاعَ زَيْدُ الْبَيْتَ بِأَتَائِهِ

[7] To show things that
are combined

This expression is used in
slang as:

(بَاعَ زَيْدُ الْبَيْتَ بِإِلَيِّ فِيهِ)

Zayd sold the house
with its furniture

[8] To show the period or
quantity used for buying,
selling or measuring
something

بَاعَ الْمَنْزِلَ بِ ١٠ آلَافٍ

He sold the house with
10 thousands

نَحْنُ نَبِيعُهُ بِالْمِثْرِ

We sell it by the meter

[9] To show who or what
does, creates or causes
something

بِإِسْمِ الشَّرِكَةِ، نَحْنُ نَشْكُرُكَ

On behalf of the
company, we thank you

هَذَا الْكِتَابُ بِقَلَمِ زَيْدِ الصَّايغِ

This book was written
by Zayd Al-Sayeg

[10] To show how or in
what way something is
done

دَوْلَةٌ غَنِيَّةٌ بِالْمَعَادِنِ

A country rich in
minerals

إِمْتَلَأَ الْحَوْضُ بِالْمَاءِ

A pool was filled by
water



The usages when it comes before a **NOUN**

استِعمالات حَرْف الجرّ	مِثَال	التَّرْجَمَة
Preposition usages	Example	Translating
[1] To show who is intended to have or use something or where something is intended to be put	هَذَا الْكِتَابُ لَزَيْدٍ	This book is belong to Zayd
	أَعْطَى زَيْدٌ لِرَوْجَتِهِ هَدِيَّةً	Zayd gave a gift to her wife
	هَذَا الْكِتَابُ لِي	This book is mine
[2] To show a reason or cause	سَامَحْتُكَ لِطَيِّبِ قَلْبِكَ	I forgave you for your kind heart
	ذَهَبَ زَيْدٌ لِشِرَاءِ الدَّوَاءِ	Zayd went to buy a medicine
[3] To show the person or thing that is affected by an action	إِنْتَبِهْ لِلنَّظَّارَةِ	Be careful with the eyeglass
	مَاذَا فَعَلْتَ لِشَعْرِكَ؟	What have you done to your hair?
[4] In the sense of wonder	يَا لِرَوْعَةٍ !	How beauty !
	يَا لِلْغَرَابَةِ !	How strange !
[5] To obtain something	لَمَزِيدٍ مِنَ الْمَعْلُومَاتِ ، اتَّصِلْ بِنَا	For more information, call us
[6] To show the occasion or time when something happens	لَقَدْ خَسِرْتُ لِلْمَرَّةِ الثَّانِيَةِ	I lost for the second time
	سَأَغِيبُ لثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ	I'm going away for three days
[7] To show a relationship between one person or thing and another	الْمِفْتَاحُ لِلْبَابِ	The key to the door
	الْحَلُّ لِهَذِهِ الْمَشْكِلةِ	The solution to this problem



The usages when it comes before a **PRESENT VERB**

استِعمالات حَرْف الجرّ	مِثَال	التَرْجَمَة
Preposition usages	Example	Translating
[1] To make a command <u>Note that:</u> - you can alter "preposition + verb" with command verb) - the verb has SUKOON	لِتُسَاعِدِ الْآخَرِينَ (= سَاعِدِ الْآخَرِينَ) لِتَأْكُلْ طَعَامَكَ (= كُلْ طَعَامَكَ)	Help other people Eat your food
[2] To show a purpose or a reason <u>Note that:</u> the verb has FATHA	ذَاكِرٌ لِيَتَنَجَّحَ دَهَبْتُ إِلَى الْمَدْرَسَةِ لِأَتَعَلَّمَ	Study to be succeed I went school to learn



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